



Vestry Minutes -- Approved Thursday, January 21, 2021

Highlights:

*In the Buildings & Grounds discussion, Vestry approved a contract with Detroit Steeplejack to make roof repairs, and heard of the early results of looking into the costs and availability of high-speed internet service in the sanctuary, which would be necessary to allow live streaming of services once we are allowed to worship in person again. Live streaming would allow those who cannot or choose not to attend in person to join us in worship.

*Vestry approved the 2021 budget, which will be explained to the congregation at the annual meeting Jan. 31, to be held on Zoom. Because of time constraints related to Zoom, the budget will be accompanied by a list of Frequently Asked Questions as a way to anticipate questions from the congregation. The budget assumes half of the year we will be worshipping remotely, and half of the year we will be meeting together in person.

*The meeting closed with thanks and recognition for those who are completing their terms on Vestry: Senior Warden Lisa Jones, Junior Warden Roger Basse, former Senior Warden Christine Galli, and one-time Senior Warden Chuck Atwater. Their service and experience were much appreciated.

Present: Rev. Emily Williams Guffey, Rev. Anthony Estes, Lisa Jones, Christine Galli, Carolyn Maher, Howard Matthew, Betty Warner, Roger Basse, Denise Crenshaw, Chuck Atwater, Desmond Jones, Jim Treece.

Excused/Absent: Phil Brown. Present in our memories: George Port

Reports received: Draft 2021 budget; financial statements for calendar 2020; Buildings and Grounds open issues, summary of latest meeting, and a bid for roof repairs from Detroit Steeplejack; Rector's report; Staff reports (including Associate Rector and Deacon). Action items underlined.

Emily offered our **Opening Prayer**: A "Prayer for quiet confidence" (BCP). In our reflections on national events, we talked of finding quiet amidst everything. Emily quoted from a recent sermon she had heard: "Rest is a witness to grace" and "Where we may be still, and know that you are God."

The minutes of the January 7 meeting were **approved**.

Desmond reviewed the **Buildings & Grounds** open-issues spreadsheet. *Security cameras' feeds are being put on individual phones. *We're receiving bids to extend fiber-optics to the church, which would help to enable live-streaming of services from the sanctuary. The speed would be increased substantially, but the cost could more than double. B&G is putting together a subcommittee on this.

Work on the Bell Tower continued through Jan. 12, and will resume when temperatures allow. We've asked for before and after photos, as well as a list of what's been done and what remains, so that we can determine what will be done in Phases 2 and 3. It was suggested that we have a short, say three-minute, video explaining what type of work is being done to the Bell Tower and what might happen if that work isn't done. This might help to explain to people what the money is going for.

Work on the East/West floors and walls is on pause until funding is determined. Emily relayed word from Finance Chair Jane Forbes that she thinks we can find funding to proceed now. Angela (of Quinn Evans) will contact W3, the contractor.

The cost of the stormwater project now is projected at more than \$70K. Jane Forbes has raised an issue: If we accept the city's grant for the project, Detroit Water and Sewage will have the right to come onto the property and inspect the set-up at any time for years, and the diocese may need to sign off on that.

The master plan/facilities assessment will get started next week, schedules permitting. Some suggestions for additional assessment: cost of adding air conditioning, fire suppression, and improving sound deadening between first floor and lower level. They'll do all they can within the scope of the \$10K quote, but we may add to the scope of the study later, if and as needed. Desmond reminded the vestry that the original quote was \$35K for a much more detailed study.

Motion: Vestry approves payment of \$6,200 to Detroit Steeplejack for repairs to the roof over the sanctuary and Ledyard Hall. Discussion: It's in the budget for \$9K, but the contract needs Vestry approval. **Approved.**

Emily reviewed plans for Lent. We await guidance from the bishops of Michigan, but ashes will be involved in some way on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, although marking of the cross on people's foreheads may not be allowed due to COVID-19. We should know more soon. Plans for this year's Deep River Lenten program on Spirituals are under way, partnering with Opera Modo.

We also are planning a Last Things series, led by Stewardship, which will help members with the often-difficult preparations for the end of life: financial planning, health care, and funeral preparations.

Motion: Vestry approves the **2021 Budget**.

We reviewed the 2021 budget in detail, plus the 2020 actual results. *There may be some reallocation of health-insurance expenses from one line to another in the budget, but the totals won't change. *Office expenses jumped last year when we bought computers and software for video editing. *Finance Committee will send out a list of Frequently Asked Questions (and answers), to help the congregation to understand the numbers and trim budget-discussion time at the annual meeting. (Note: The parish can discuss the numbers, but the Vestry approves the budget.) Lisa will send a suggested FAQ to Christine. Jim will compile and send FAQ candidates to Christine, drawn from the Vestry's discussion at this meeting and our previous meeting. E.g., will the church qualify for another PPP loan this year? What do the three columns marked "2021 Covid," "2021 non-Covid," and "2021 combined" represent? Motion **approved**.

Motion: Vestry approves payment of \$500 for membership in the Consortium for Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP). Discussion: Their conference will be online in March. Emily hopes many of us can take part in that; we get a group discount if we send at least 5 people. **Approved.**

In other finance matters, pledge envelopes have arrived at the church. In early February, we hope to have pledge envelopes, annual meeting documents, and Lenten materials available for distribution.

Emily led a review of our **Annual Meeting & Report Preparations**.

We have a full slate of Vestry candidates. We have at least one more spot to be a diocesan delegate.

Reports and financials will be distributed digitally next week. We plan to allow participation in the annual meeting through an online link. Paper copies of the reports will be available afterwards.

Our quorum is 10 percent of our communicants in good standing. The diocese already has indicated a flexibility in canon law, since none of us are currently receiving communion in person. We will open the meeting by articulating the new procedures so everyone is aware of why we're doing what we're doing.

The voting process on Zoom will include options for those who cannot connect digitally. Since we have an equal number of candidates and spots, we can vote by acclamation.

In the meeting, we aim to use videos and slideshows as much as possible, with many of the remarks recorded ahead of time, to move things along. (Some folks who would accept a two-hour regular meeting won't stick with a Zoom meeting that goes over one hour.) Emily, Lisa, and Jane will have live airtime to entertain questions from the floor. Those who have submitted a written report are expected to be available to answer questions, too.

We closed with a **Recognition of Vestry Members**. This was the last Vestry meeting for this group as a body. In particular, Emily praised the individuals whose terms are ending – Lisa Jones, Roger Basse, Chuck Atwater, and Christine Galli – and all of their outstanding efforts as Emily came to Christ Church, got settled here, and then dealt with a pandemic.

The meeting **adjourned** at 7:58.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Treece, secretary